

EPA REGION 3

ENVIRO-BYTES

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY ISSUES & EVENTS

for the Week Ending August 17, 2001

Welcome to *Enviro-Bytes*, a weekly news wrap-up from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 3 mid-Atlantic office in Philadelphia.

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EPA HELPS DELAWARE MONITOR ARTIFICIAL REEFS

The first deployment of New York subway cars head to the ocean off Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, to be used as artificial reefs, beginning on August 21. EPA Region III's role will be to help the state of Delaware monitor the reefs. Concerns about the presence of asbestos, lead paint and the longevity of the car-reefs were investigated by the oceans and coastal team, and the following measures are being used to make the cars suitable for disposal: The asbestos is being bound in an insoluble inert epoxy resin and the lead paint is being removed. The longevity was projected to be 15 to 20 years, or double the original projection.

EPA CO-SPONSORS MAJOR TERRORISM DRILL IN CHESAPEAKE, VA.

A comprehensive haz-mat emergency response assessment exercise was held in Chesapeake, Va. recently. Hosted by FEMA, this exercise was the largest of its kind ever held in Region III, with more than 500 participants. EPA was given the opportunity to explain its role in a mock terrorism incident, both immediately, under the national response system, and also in consequence management, under the federal response plan.

EPA TECHNICAL SUPPORT HELPS BRING ABOUT LEAD-BASED PAINT CONVICTION

With the assistance of the Ft. Meade lab and others, EPA helped bring a successful prosecution in a major lead-based paint disclosure case. A Washington D.C. area landlord pleaded guilty to a number

of charges, including failure to notify tenants about the presence and hazards of lead-based paint in his apartment buildings. In addition to facing fines and prison, the landlord must provide all tenants with bilingual notices about potential lead hazards, retain an independent contractor to assess lead-based paint hazards, and develop a lead abatement plan for his properties.

FINAL CLOSEOUT IN THE WORKS FOR ALADDIN PLATING SITE IN LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PA.

A final closeout report was signed for Aladdin Plating, meaning that all remedial actions required have been completed. Site monitoring of wells and nearby residential wells, however, will continue to be monitored. The site will be proposed for deletion from the National Priorities List as soon as a concurrence letter is received from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

EPA LEADS DISCUSSION ON 2000 OIL SPILL AT JOHN HEINZ REFUGE AT TINICUM

EPA participated in a Philadelphia Earth Force workshop at the Cusano Environmental Education Center; part of the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum. The workshop is part of the community action and problem solving program run by Earth Force, which engages youth and educators in identifying and implementing long-term solutions for local environmental issues. EPA lead a discussion on the oil spill, reviewed EPA policy, practices and oil spill cleanup procedures.

EPA AWARDS GRANT TO CITY OF THOMAS, WV.

A \$3.09 million EPA grant will be used to pay for the cost, design and construction of a new drinking water line, as well as for the rehabilitation of the water treatment plant serving the city of Thomas, WV. The project will provide a safe, reliable drinking water system for the city to replace the existing system which is old, leaks, and is subject to contamination. Thomas is a low-income area and would have been unable to afford the project without the grant.

RA MEETS WITH STATE AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES SECRETARIES, AND THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Regional Administrator Don Welsh, met with the agricultural counselor to administrator Christie Whitman and other EPA and state officials for a day-long discussion on ways to improve communication among agencies, and to explore ideas that would strengthen partnerships for better environmental cleanup. The meeting was the first in a series that EPA is hosting throughout the nation.

EPA AND WEST VIRGINIA DEP JOIN MULTI-AGENCY DRUG TASK FORCE IN ARREST

Though the efforts of EPA, the state office and a joint multi-agency task force, a West Virginia man received 15 months in jail on drug and hazardous waste charges in connection with the manufacture of methamphetamine in a private residence occupied by children. The three counts include: 1) attempting to manufacture methamphetamine, a controlled substance; 2) creating a substantial risk of harm to human life by using volatile, explosive chemicals; and 3) knowingly disposing of hazardous waste without a permit.

EPA GRANT TO THE CLEAN AIR COUNCIL TO BE USED FOR ENERGY WORKSHOP

EPA recently awarded a grant to the Philadelphia Clean Air Council which will be used to plan and execute an energy-efficient and renewable energy workshop. The four-hour workshop will provide community and business leaders with knowledge on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies available in today's marketplace. The agenda will include topics on EPA's newest

voluntary program, the Green Power Partnership Program. This program is designed to increase the demand for renewable energy and reduce emissions associated with electric power generation.